

# Geostrategic Landscape in the Indo-Pacific

## Critical Role for Northern Australia

Darwin Convention Center

John Wissler

Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

President, JPW Solutions, LLC

*The contents of this presentation are the property of John Wissler, LtGen USMC (Ret.)*

*This material is distributed by John Wissler on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.*

# THE STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

- The China Dream “national rejuvenation by 2049”
- President Xi directed “ready for conflict” by 2027
- Build-up of the People’s Liberation Army, Navy, and Air Force
- Development of long-range land-based missiles, cyber threats, and anti-satellite weapons
- China’s assertive foreign policy shift beyond their own borders

## China's Strategic Vision

Demarcations of China's growing naval presence in the Indo-Pacific



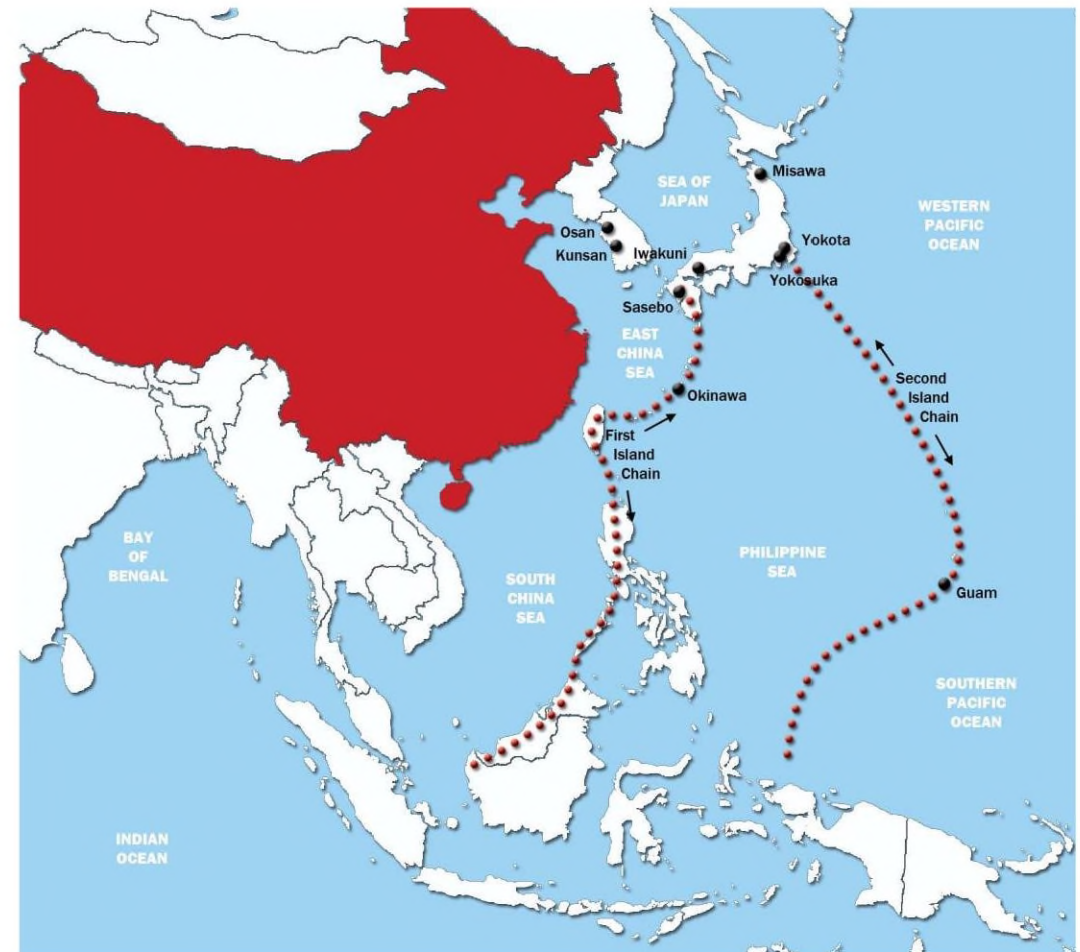
Source: Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative

\*Island chain is a security concept for a strategic perimeter of islands and larger land masses.

**Bloomberg**Opinion

# RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES

- Defending Allies and Partners in the region
- Assuring access for global partners in all shared domains
- Delivering on a strategy that prevents the domination of the Indo-Pacific by China
- Enable continued prosperity in the region and around the globe





Areas where Taiwan recorded Chinese air force activity between April 1, 6 a.m. and April 2, 6 a.m. local time

# BRINGING IT CLOSE TO HOME...



**CHINESE WAR DRILLS**  
China launched a shock "live-fire" military exercise between Australia and New Zealand forcing several planes to be diverted

AUSTRALIA  
Sydney

Tasman Sea

NEW ZEALAND  
Christchurch

Chinese naval ships

100 miles

The complex block contains a title, a text description, a map of the region with a red box highlighting the Tasman Sea area, and two photographs. The map shows Australia and New Zealand with Sydney and Christchurch marked. A red line indicates the path of Chinese naval ships in the Tasman Sea. The photographs show a large naval vessel and a view from a ship's deck.

# ADM Paparo – Commander USINDOPACOM

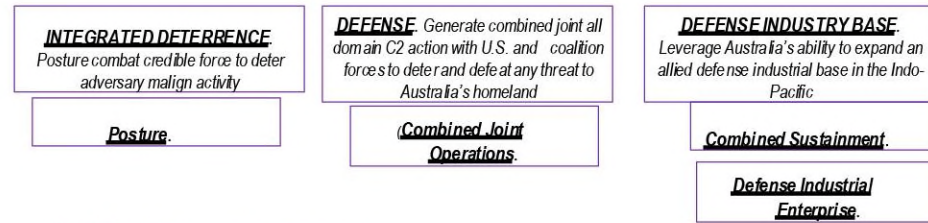
- China developing and integrating cutting-edge technologies at an alarming pace. China is outpacing the U.S. in testing critical technologies.
- Beijing's aggressive maneuvers around Taiwan are not just exercises – they are dress rehearsals – PLA escalated military pressure against Taiwan by 300% in 2024.
- Russia has significantly modernized its Pacific Fleet – In 2024 alone, Russia's Pacific Fleet received three new submarines.
- Russia's growing military cooperation with China, including joint exercises in the Pacific, adds another layer of complexity to the Indo-Pacific security environment.
- The deepening cooperation between China, Russia, and North Korea threatens to exacerbate and accelerate security challenges in the Indo-Pacific, degrading safety and security and accelerating existing tensions and disputes in the region.

# AUSTRALIA'S IMPORTANCE

## OVERVIEW

- addresses critical operational capacity shortfalls for the coalition forces in the theater
- alleviates force sustainment challenges in the Indo-Pacific region
- enhances force posture cooperation in Australia's northern approaches
- strengthens existing capabilities, capability development and defense industrial base cooperation
- maximizes strategic and technological advantage of the alliance, and regional security integration
- upholds international law and advances priorities of the alliance, US and Australian partnerships, well as integration with capable forces, such as Japan, Korea and India.

## OPERATIONAL ROLE



## US PRIORITIES

### COMMAND & CONTROL

- Joint Command & Control
- Integrated Air & Missile Defense

### INFORMATION

- Cyber Operations
- Deployable, Scalable Network

### FIRES

- Joint Fires
- Long-Range Standoff Strike

### INTELLIGENCE

- Joint Targeting
- Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination
- Tactical ISR (Maritime)

### SUSTAINMENT

- Deepen Munition Stocks
- Joint Expeditionary Theater Logistics System

### MOVEMENT & MANEUVER

- Amphibious Combined Arms Warfare
- Networked Expeditionary Air Operations
- Undersea warfare

### PROTECTION

- Defensive Planning
- Fast Response Options



## SUPPORT ALL ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER...

- Diplomatic
- Informational
- Military
- Economic

## ...IN ALL FIVE DOMAINS

- Air
- Land
- Sea
- Space
- Cyberspace

**CREATE – CONNECT – TRAIN – LAUNCH – MAINTAIN**

# SUPPORT TO DEFENSE, FREE TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State of the Art Ranges – Maritime Support Capabilities –  
Data Centers – Strategic Fuels – Space Capabilities – Critical Minerals



# THE NORTH

## A GLOBAL STRATEGIC ASSET



The contents of this presentation are the property of John Wissler, LtGen USMC (Ret.)

This material is distributed by John Wissler on behalf of the Northern Territory Government.

